

Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

Since 1964, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA has served the five county area.

Our Mission:

"To put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all."

Our Values:

"Through programs that foster honesty, respect, caring and responsibility, at the YMCA we build character one kid at a time."

Our Vision:

"Strong kids, strong families, strong communities!"



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***Have you thought about
joining the YMCA?***

For More Information,

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**Grand Traverse Bay
YMCA**

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the YMCA?"*

3000 Racquet Club Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

info@gtbayymca.org



**"The YMCA challenges
people to accept and
demonstrate the core
values of caring,
honesty, respect and
responsibility."**

*From Grand Traverse Bay YMCA
Strategic Plan*

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The Y in Our Community

Reprinted from Grand Traverse Insider...

It will come as no surprise to regular readers of *Grand Traverse Insider* that the local YMCA has risen to meet community needs in this challenging economy. After all, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA has been meeting community needs since 1964, following the venerable 150 year tradition of the YMCA in the United States.

What's unique about this year is the scope of YMCA projects. The local Y has always offered their services "to all", as their mission states, through a "No One Denied" financial assistance policy. Last year over 500 families received a total of \$122,000 in assistance so that kids could participate in soccer, football, basketball, tennis, day camp, or any of the other 65 programs and memberships the Y has to offer. In the first quarter of 2009, requests for assistance have already topped \$84,000, a 116% increase from the first quarter of 2008.

"There are a lot of people this year asking for help for their kids," said YMCA CEO Tom Van Deinse. "Besides financial data to demonstrate need, we require all applicants to submit a short narrative on why they're requesting assistance. The stories we hear over and over are 'My spouse lost his job and we don't want our kids to miss out on the great programs you offer', or 'I'm a single parent and I just need some help for my kids.'"

"We're going to include a day care center as part of the New Y," explained YMCA Child Care Director Molly Brown, "but the community need was too great to wait, so our board made a commitment to start up those services now." The 9,600 square foot Y Child Care Center features a large gymnasium with bounce house and fenced outdoor play area. "Kid's faces really light up when they see all of the fun activities we have to offer," added Brown.

A new day care center is not the only thing new for the Y this spring. Y Youth Sports Director Mark Sinclair told us, "The Y is now hosting three varsity lacrosse teams, in addition to soccer, flag football, Pop Warner football, and all of the other outdoor sports that we offer. The need for fields is at hand." To meet this current demand, the YMCA will begin site construction at their Silver Lake Road property this spring. "We're about half way through the fundraising for the new building," explained Van Deinse, "so we can't start construction yet, but we *can* and *must* get those fields ready by this fall."

A good portion of the entrance drive and parking lot will be constructed this spring, as well.

From sports programming serving more than 10,000 kids every year, to critical services like child care, summer camp, and financial assistance, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA has been a vital

From one of our families ...

"We are a family of six. We have four kids ages 8, 7, 5, and 3. We all enjoy the YMCA!"

The kids take all sorts of classes from soccer, basketball, tennis, and gymnastics, to going to the play room while I work out. I work out, take many fitness classes, and play women's soccer and basketball. I've even gotten my husband to work out and play racquetball with me. We love the YMCA. My 5-year old wants to live there! It is so convenient for our family and so much fun! The staff is always friendly and know all my kids by name."

- Rebecca McGarry Costello

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resource for the Grand Traverse Bay Area for almost 50 years. Dave Eitland, Director of Development for the Y, put it this way, "Yes, we've been there for the community, but it's only because the community has been there for us every year with the kind of support we need to give the community what it needs."

With the right support, the construction of the New Y will insure those community needs are met for the next 50 years, as well.